

Roxbury Community College



27th Commencement
7 June 2002

12:00 NOON

Roxbury Community College
Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev'ry voice and sing

Till earth and heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, High as the list'ning skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on 'til victory is won.

James Weldon Johnson

1871 - 1938

PROGRAM

Prelude

Processional

*The audience is requested to remain seated during the processional for students and faculty. Music provided by Dr. John J. Weeks.
Color Guard will post the colors.*

Invocation

Reverend Dr. Michael Ellis

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Nina Sequira, vocalist

Greetings from the President

Randolph W. Bromery, Ph.D., Interim President

Greetings from the Alumni

Cindy Walker, class of 1988, Alumni President

Student Address

Sydney E. Barker, Valedictorian

Commencement Address

Vonetta Flowers, Recipient of Gold Medal Winter Olympics 2002

Presentation of the President's Awards for Distinguished Service

Community Service Award

Royal L. Bolling, Sr., Senator

Academic Leadership Award

Marcellette G. Williams, Interim Chancellor, University of Massachusetts

President's Award Address

Marcellette G. Williams, Interim Chancellor, University of Massachusetts

Don't Give Up

Nina Sequira, vocalist

Conferring of Degrees and Certificates

Authorization of the Board of Trustees

Harry Sterling, Jr., Chair, Board of Trustees

Introduction of Degree and Certificate Candidates

Presided by Provost Janis W. Jones, Ed.D.

Candidates for Associate of Arts degree introduced by Marshall Hughes, Associate Dean

Candidates for Associate of Science degree introduced by Jane Aswell, Ph.D., Dean

Candidates for Certificates with specification introduced by Walter Silva, Dean

Conferring of Degrees and Certificates

Randolph W. Bromery, Ph.D., Interim President

Presentation of Degrees and Certificates to the Students

Harry Sterling, Jr., Chair, Board of Trustees

Randolph W. Bromery, Ph.D., Interim President

Rudolph Jones, Ed.D., Dean and Acting Special Assistant to the President

Eleanor Rollins, Dean

President's Charge to Graduating Class of 2002

Randolph W. Bromery, Ph.D., Interim President

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Michael Ellis

Recessional

The audience is requested to remain seated during the recessional and is invited immediately after the ceremony to a reception in the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center Field House.

Commencement Speaker

Vonetta Flowers



Vonetta Flowers is the first African American to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics. In the 2002 Winter Olympics, Flowers and her partner Jill Bakken became the first American women to win a gold medal in the bobsled competition. Their gold medal represents the first bobsled medal won by any American since 1948.

Flowers is a twenty-eight-year-old track star who has been in the bobsled sport for slightly more than a year and had only two weeks of training on how to push a bobsled. After sliding down the Olympic course at a speed of 80 miles per hour, Vonetta Flowers, in the first women's bobsled competition in the Olympics, rose from a pre-Olympic second standing to the recipient of a gold medal.

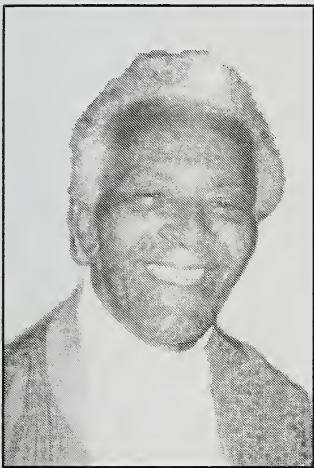
According to Flowers, "I am so blessed to be here, to win a gold medal for your country is simply awesome. Hopefully, this will encourage other African American boys and girls to give winter sports a try." After finishing twelfth in the long jump in the U.S. Olympic Trials, Flowers was persuaded to attend the bobsled tryouts and then decided to try-it-out. At that time the only thing she knew about the Winter Olympics was the movie *Cool Running*.

Flowers is a three-time member of the United States Olympic Festival Team, winning the long jump in 1994 and the one-hundred-meter relay in 1995. She has qualified nine times in the USATF National Championships and ranked in the top ten in the nation three times for the long jump. Currently Ms. Flowers is Assistant Track coach at the University of Alabama.

Presentation of President's Awards for Distinguished Service

Community Service

Royal L. Bolling, Sr.



Early in the career of Senator Royal L. Bolling, Sr., he recognized the importance of providing educational opportunities for young people and in 1967 assisted the black faculty at the University of Massachusetts Amherst to establish the Committee for the Collegiate Education of Black Students program (CCEBS). This program made it possible for thousands of African-American students to fulfill their dreams of graduating from college. Many of the CCEBS graduates were the first members in their family to receive a college degree.

The Senator realized the importance of local community colleges. He recognized that there were community colleges in nearly every district except our community. Bolling wanted "Roxbury Community College to have a permanent first class site and not continue to be located in the various undesirable locations."

Once he formulated the concept of Roxbury Community College, Senator Bolling led the fight to secure \$250,000 in state funds for the development of a site. The early seed money provided the foundation and guaranteed future budget allocations. Roxbury Community College was readily endorsed by the legislatures, educators, community leaders, and the public-at-large.

After nearly thirty years of public service to the community, Roxbury Community College is an established and respected institution of higher education. Senator Royal L. Bolling, Sr.'s dream has been realized, and his hard work has evolved into a higher education reality for this community.

Presentation of President's Awards for Distinguished Service

Academic Leadership

Marcellette G. Williams



Marcellette Williams is the Interim Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Williams has been described by her predecessor, David Scott, as a catalyst for change and growth.

In addition, Dr. Williams' current research focuses on the study of the language of leadership; its metaphors and other dimensions of rhetoric; and its capacity to persuade, motivate, and renew. Dr. Williams, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate, has earned a B.A. with Highest Honor in Comparative Literature, an M.A. in English and Comparative Literature, and a Ph.D. in English from Michigan State University.

Prior to leading the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Williams held a variety of administrative and academic positions at Michigan State University. For almost a decade she taught and consulted throughout Asia and Europe through Michigan State University's education overseas program. Williams has held major offices in professional associations including the National Council of Fellows of the American Council on Education.

When asked by the Minuteman Newspaper what her greatest attribute was, she responded, "a love of learning and enabling others to learn for themselves." Dr. Williams recounts the time in Asia, as a period of self learning where she found the trips enabled her to see that we are more alike than different, with similar goals, and with the same dreams for our children and for ourselves. "It allowed me to learn about myself and especially about myself as part of the world."

Degrees in Course

Degrees are presented in the following order.

Associate of Arts

Maryam R. Abdul-Rahim

Business Administration

Zendai Abe

General Concentration

Lidya H. Abraha

Mathematics

Elizabeth Acosta

General Concentration

Ola T. Adamson

Biological Science

Oluranti Adenike Adepoju

Biological Science

Christelle A. Ahyee

General Concentration

Prisca A. Ahyee

General Concentration

Lisa M. Archer

General Concentration

Sydonya E. Barker

General Concentration

Mahlet G. Bejiga

Social Science

Kimberly Bernice Benders

General Concentration

Ramon B. Bonifacio

Business Administration

Tanycha Enid Bonilla

General Concentration

Valerie A. Carrington

Business Administration

Melissa Chang

PreNursing

Juan L. Colon

Pre-Engineering

Brodrick Egodogbere

Pre-Engineering

Tikeysha N. Ellis

General Concentration

Annette Estrada

General Concentration

Stanley FanFan

Business Administration

Ayodele O. Fashakin

Business Administration

Meaza H. Fisseha

General Concentration

Medhin Getachew Gebreamlak

Pre-Engineering

Almaz T. Gidey

General Concentration

Rosilia Gomez

Biological Science

Sixto Goncalves

Physical Science

Marilu Govani

Biological Science

Carey L. Harris, Jr.

Social Science

Roxann C. Harvey

Social Science

Jane I. Ibeanu

Biological Science

Dahalia N. Jackson

General Concentration

Cris John

Social Science

Titina Kim Johnson

Business Administration

Delourdes Joseph

General Concentration

Tshila Chantal Kanonga

General Concentration

Yalemzewd Kebede

Biological Science

Jean Claude T. Leonidas

Business Administration

General Concentration

Olga Lev

General Concentration

Larry Gene Little

Business Administration

Ronald D. McCormick

General Concentration

Marvia Rosemarie McDonald-Dias

PreNursing

Salete S. Monteiro

General Concentration

Geraldine T. Naranjo

General Concentration

Dumazo N. Ngesina

General Concentration

Karla Nunez

PreNursing

Francis K. Nyante

Social Science

Francina H. Ortiz

General Concentration

Claudia J. Paredes
Business Administration

Caroline D. Phillips
Business Administration

Carl Edgard Pierre
General Concentration

Rose L. Plaisival
PreNursing

Galina Gennadyevna Putyatina
General Concentration

Diego Rodriguez
Social Science

Heidi G. Rubiera
General Concentration

Marcy M. Ruggiero
General Concentration

Lester M. Simmons
Business Administration

Krishawna M. Smith
Social Science

Norka I. Soto-Romero
General Concentration

Michelet Thenor
Business Administration

Melanie Marie Thomas
General Concentration

Gary Toussaint
General Concentration

Myrjana M. Toussaint
General Concentration

Nkechi A. Uchendu
General Concentration

Sonia S. Villaroel
Business Administration

Sahra A. Warfa
Pre-Nursing

Mika Watanabe
Musical Arts

Letisha Renee Williams
General Concentration

Marva V. Williams
Biological Science

Amani Brent Wilson
Business Administration

Michelle Wilson
Pre-Nursing

Christopher G. Womack
Social Science

Gloria L. Zapata
General Concentration

Associate of Science

Frances A. Achuo
Computer Information Systems

Etta C. Aljoe-Fennell
Nursing

Arthur Almeda
Accounting

Roshni Armaday-Martin
Office Administration

Carmen Elisa Atehortua
Nursing

Madeleine Aubourg
Computer Information Systems

Ouma D. Autar
Criminal Justice

Vjollca Avrami
Computer Information Systems

Krishanna A. Baptiste
Criminal Justice

Sheila H. Barbosa
Early Childhood Education

Claudia M. Bardales
Computer Information Systems

Jeanne Penney Barrett
Early Childhood Education

Rebecca Bekele
Computer Information Systems

Michael Benitez
Business Management

Eunice N. Bisong
Computer Information Systems

Unia Bizzle
Early Childhood Education

Steven Brigham
Computer Information Systems

Jeremi T. Browne
Computer Information Systems

Michelle Maria Burnett
Business Management

Valerie A. Carrington
Business Management

Karina Castillo
Computer Information Systems

John W. Chery
Criminal Justice

Nikenson Compte
Computer Information Systems

Samuel Cornely
Computer Information Systems

Steve Donald Desmangles
Nursing

La Verne Lydia Dickson
Nursing

Antoine A.D. Dominique
Accounting

Natacha Dominique
Nursing

Lorna Dunn-Folkes
Nursing

Juimene S. Exposito
Nursing

Gertrude Carol Eason
Early Childhood Education

Priscilla Epps
Early Childhood Education

Josefina J. Escolastico
Microcomputer Applications

Juimene S. Exposito
Nursing

Angeline Fleurilus
Early Childhood Education

Sonia Rosemarie Forbes
Nursing

Kelley Jean Freeman
Nursing

Mulu T. Gedlu
Nursing

Mahlet A. Gessese
Computer Information Systems

Roselia Gomez
Early Childhood Education

Sampierre E.V.C Gomez
Accounting

Maria Rosario Grajeda
Accounting

Yvonne B Gutierrez
Nursing

Elaine A. Henry
Computer Information Systems

Ingrid R. Henry
Accounting

Febe I. Herrera
Early Childhood Education

Dahalia N. Jackson
Microcomputer Applications

Erika Y. Jimenez
Criminal Justice

Clarence G. Johnson
Accounting

Damien K. Johnson
Business Management

Bruce E. Jordan
Computer Information Systems

Abner Joseph
Accounting

Alexander Kamenetsky
Nursing

Edward D. Katongole
Microcomputer Applications

Ping T. Lai
Computer Information Systems

On Nai Lai
Early Childhood Education

Laurie Lamy
Criminal Justice

Jose Luis Laureano
Accounting

Linda L. Lee
Business Management

Andrae Alneal Lewis
Nursing

Yathar Li
Accounting

Florence Lindor
Early Childhood Education

Yvette Long
Nursing

Mirlande Lovinsky
Computer Information Systems

Sean Lamont Mack
Criminal Justice

Jeanne Malachie
Nursing

Aida J. Marcalle
Microcomputer Applications

Veronice Marroquin
Nursing

Jessica Martinez
Early Childhood Education

Leonora Denise McLaren
Early Childhood Education

Maryam Mirza
Computer Information Systems

Tshilanda S. Mukala
Nursing

Elewechi Diana Ndukwe
Computer Information Systems

Betelihem Mekonnen Nega
Computer Information Systems

Denise Jean Nevins
Nursing

Kate Thi Ngo
Office Administration

Rona Nicholas
Nursing

Omotolani K. Orekoya
Computer Information Systems

Rekiatu Osiebo
Computer Information Systems

Charity C. Owoh
Nursing

Eridania Julissa Peralta
Business Administration

Lee Ernest Perryman III
Early Childhood Education

Jean P. Pierre
Computer Information Systems

Marie Marthe Pierre
Nursing

Maria Ivette Pizarro
Business Management

Blanca Delmy Quinones
Nursing

Brhanu K. Redda
Computer Information Systems

Drupawattie Rekha
Office Administration

Ana I. Rosado
Office Administration

Monique M. Roumo
Early Childhood Education

Carline Saint-Leger
Nursing

Portia E. Saltibus
Nursing

Yatta Rose Samah
Computer Information Systems

Zikarra J. Sampson
Microcomputer Applications

Vivian Sheffield
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Eddie L. Thompson, Jr.
Business Management

Sherley Valcourt
Nursing

Ana B. Valdez
Early Childhood Education

Lyndon H. Vincent
Accounting

Muriel I. Walinjom
Computer Information Systems

Letha Wilson
Nursing

Nikia N. Wilson
Criminal Justice

Netsanet Bekele Woldesenbet
Computer Information Systems

Certificate with Specification

Mark G. Aborjaily
Computer Information Systems

Virginia Adamson
Practical Nursing

Arthur Almeda
Bookkeeping

Myriam Bazelaïs
Practical Nursing

Rolande Berlus
Practical Nursing

Jessica Bonilla
Word Processing

Guerline Claude
Practical Nursing

Juan L. Colon
Pre-Engineering

Micol L. Core
Microcomputer Applications

Margarette Francois
Bookkeeping

Bradley C. Garber
Word Processing

Marie D. Gautier
Word Processing

Fatou Gueye
Office Technology

Natalya Kasymova
Paralegal Studies

John B. Kawere
Computer Network Administration

Pamaletha Lewis
Practical Nursing

Yvette Long
Practical Nursing

Samira Madani
Bookkeeping

Aida J. Marcalle
Bookkeeping

Leslie E. Moorer
Paralegal

Guylene Muzac
Practical Nursing

Stanley C. Njoku
Practical Nursing

Denisia N. Parisienne-Quashie
Practical Nursing

Marie C. Pauyo
Practical Nursing

Awilda C. Pena
Computer Information Systems

Drupawattie Rekha
Word Processing

Lisa Thomas
Practical Nursing

Angela M. Whitfield
Allied Health

Cherrell Wilson
Allied Health

The Registrar of Roxbury Community College maintains the official list of all graduates. This program is for ceremonial purposes.

Scholarships, Awards, and Honors

All American Scholar Award

This award is made by the National Achievement Academy for excellence in scholastic achievement. Students must have a 3.5 grade point average and be accepted into the National Honor Society. Two percent of all students in higher education achieve this status.

Olatunbosun Adamson, Patricia Cadet, Geraldine T. Naranjo, Elewechi D. Ndukwe, Nkechi A. Uchendu

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc./Psi Omega Chapter Award

This award is given to an outstanding multicultural female graduate who is transferring to a four-year institution.

Sheila H. Barbosa

Boston University Scholarship

This program offers high-achieving students financial support for the first two years of their education at Boston University. Scholarships can cover all tuition, fees, and provide a stipend for books and supplies.

Mahlet Bejiga, Yalemzewd Kebede

Claudia J. Tucker Award

This award is given annually to an outstanding Roxbury Community College transfer student in honor of the mother of Roxbury Community College's Professor Royal C. Tucker.

Nkechi Uchendu

Alise Rostan Dowling Scholarship

Given in the memory of the mother of Roxbury Community College's Vice President of Administration, Dr. Nadine Dowling, this award of \$500 is presented to an outstanding nursing student. The award is based on recommendations from faculty, service to the college, financial need, and the student's quality point average.

Raquel Amoldoni

Elizabeth "Betty" Johnson Award

Given annually in memory of one of the original members of Roxbury Community College's Board of Trustees, the "Betty" Johnson Award is presented to the graduating student who has earned the highest cumulative grade point average and a minimum of fifty credits at Roxbury Community College.

Sydneya Barker

Foster Furcolo Scholarship

This scholarship honors former Governor Foster Furcolo, who played a major role in creating public community colleges in Massachusetts. Each community college, nominates one graduate whose grade point average is at least 3.5. The scholarship covers tuition and most fees at University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Geraldine Naranjo

Francina E. Copeland Gelzer Endowed Scholarship

Given in the name of a lifelong resident of the greater Roxbury community with a strong commitment to education, this award is presented to a Roxbury Community College student on the basis of outstanding scholastic achievement. The recipient is an African-American graduate who has maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and who has been accepted into a four-year college degree program.

Letisha Williams

James H. Caesar Endowed Scholarship

In 1986, a Roxbury resident established this scholarship to honor the opportunities this country and community had given him. In selecting the recipient, preference is given to graduating students who have attended the Cooper Community Center of Roxbury or the Roxbury Boys and Girls Club. If this criterion does not apply, the scholarship may be awarded to a talented Roxbury Community College student from the Roxbury community.

Valerie Carrington

Letitia Garafalo Endowed Scholarship

Established by a native of Quincy, Massachusetts, who used her knowledge of languages to live and work in communities around the world, this endowed memorial scholarship is presented to a Roxbury Community College graduate on the basis of academic merit and financial need.

Iysha King

Northeastern University Scholarship

This program offers high-achieving students \$10,000 per year at Northeastern University. Scholarships can cover all tuition, fees, and provide a stipend for books and supplies.

Ingrid Beckles, Valerie Carrington, Meaza Fisseha, Bekele Merene

Sapers Family Opportunity Awards

This award is presented to no more than ten Roxbury Community College graduates who transfer to four-year colleges in pursuit of baccalaureate degrees. This special “50-50” award consists of both a scholarship and a low-interest loan. The award is made available through the generosity of the William R. Sapers family of Boston.

Olatunbosun Adamson, Ohuranti Adepoju, Ingrid Beckles, Brodrick Egodogbere, Ayodele Fashakin, Jay P. Joshi, Marvia McDonald, Rekiatu Osiebo, Mavis Sanusi, Lyndon Vincent

Therese Dutile Giles Award

Given annually by the Giles family in memory of their mother, this award is presented to a student who, having mastered a new language in the English for Speakers of Other Languages Department, is now graduating with an associate degree and has provided service to the Roxbury Community College community.

Netsanet Woldesenbet

University Scholars

This program provides academically outstanding students with up to \$6,000 each year toward the cost of their education at the University of Massachusetts. Massachusetts community college presidents nominate the top academically ranked student who has earned a transfer designated associate degree.

Jessica Martinez, University of Massachusetts Boston; Sydonya Barker, University of Massachusetts Boston

Roxbury Community College

Years of dreaming and planning came to life in 1973, when Roxbury Community College opened its doors in the Grove Hall area of Roxbury. Despite less than perfect surroundings - its location was a former car dealership - Roxbury Community College's dedicated faculty, staff, and administration served the educational needs of four hundred students. The College's mission, as it is now, was to provide higher education to those Boston residents who found most other avenues to higher education closed.

In 1975, growth was impetus for a move to 424 Dudley Street, a former nursing home. This move permitted the expansion and strengthening of academic programs and student services. The College continued to grow, which precipitated another move in 1982 to the former site of Boston State College on Huntington Avenue. As the college continued to shift its service base to meet an expanding enrollment, the goal to establish a permanent home for Roxbury Community College in the heart of the communities it serves, remained strong.

With much anticipation, Roxbury Community College built its new home as the cornerstone of the Southwest Corridor in the Spring of 1978. This fifteen acre campus includes a state-of-the-art Media Arts Building, Academic Building, Administration Building, Student Center, and the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center. In addition to the Columbus Avenue site, Roxbury Community College has an additional campus at 989 Commonwealth Avenue.

A global village, Roxbury Community College's multicultural and ethnically diverse student population has set it apart from other community colleges in the Commonwealth. Although most of our students are from Boston and surrounding communities, many come from all corners of the world including: North America, Central America, South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. International students also hail from Brazil, China, Trinidad, Peru, Barbados, Nigeria, Haiti, and Jamaica.

With renewed commitment, Roxbury Community College continues its legacy of providing educational opportunities for all who enter its doors.

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